

Bill	House passed	Senate passed	CNF passed	Time elapsed between H/S
Labor/HHS/Education	10/11/01	11/6/01	25 days.
Legislative	7/31/01	7/31/01	11/1/01
Military Construction	9/21/01	9/26/01	10/17/01	5 days.
Transportation	6/26/01	8/1/01	11/30/01	185 days.
Treasury/Postal	7/25/01	9/19/01	10/31/01	54 days.
VA/HUD	7/30/01	8/2/01	11/8/01	3 days.

¹ (Sent to conf 10/31.)

ANNOUNCING INTRODUCTION OF WORKER OPPORTUNITY AND RELIEF COMPENSATION ACT

(Mr. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, the people in the Congress came together with the President and all the American people as a result of the tragedy on September 11 in New York and Washington. I think we need to show that same spirit again when we come together for displaced workers in this country.

The people in this country who lost their jobs as a result of the faltering economy or the horrible event on September 11 do not need a handout. They do not need a tax cut. They need a helping hand just to get through this personal crisis they have suffered as a result of their loss of jobs until they can find a new job. These people are taxpayers and they will work again when they have the opportunity. But until that time, they need health insurance and they need extended unemployment benefits.

I am concerned that the latest press accounts reflect there may be some problem with the stimulus package. If that is the case, we need at the very least to pass a stand-alone provision for these displaced workers. The President has committed to support such a stand-alone provision.

I have introduced today the Worker Opportunity and Relief Compensation Act. I ask for your support for that legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include a December 7 letter from the President as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, December 7, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS MOORE,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MOORE: In October, I called on Congress to pass meaningful legislation to help Americans who have been affected by the economic consequences of the terrorist attacks. I called for immediate assistance for workers who have lost their jobs, and for tax provisions that would immediately and significantly stimulate the economy to create more jobs.

I made clear that I was open to good ideas for achieving these goals. And I laid out some general principles that are essential components of a meaningful stimulus package:

Tax rebates for lower-income Americans; Acceleration of marginal tax rate reductions; Enhanced expensing of capital expenditures; and Elimination of the corporate alternative minimum tax.

In the two months since I called on Congress to act, many promising ideas to assist

workers have been put forward by both Democrats and Republicans. In November, Chairman Baucus proposed temporary expansions of health care and unemployment benefits for displaced workers. A bipartisan group of moderate Senators also developed a specific proposal for temporary assistance to workers, including a health insurance tax credit. This week, Chairman Thomas and the Republican leadership of the House announced their support for a specific set of temporary expansions of health care and unemployment benefits for displaced workers. Their proposal includes tax credits and mandatory spending, including block grants for health insurance, and extensions and increases in unemployment benefits that could all be implemented quickly.

I believe that the recent proposal from the House Republicans, coupled with the essential components of an economic stimulus bill that I have outlined above, can form the basis of a legislative package that provides the assistance and new jobs that American workers need now. I urge the Congressional Leadership to bring this legislation expanding unemployment and health benefits to my desk by the end of the year. Additionally, I urge Congress to send me legislation regardless of the success or failure of any other elements of the economic stimulus measures now pending. I continue to strongly believe that the best course is to combine assistance for dislocated workers with meaningful tax cuts that will create jobs for American workers.

My Administration stands ready to work with Democrats and Republicans to turn good ideas into law. We have an extraordinary opportunity to rise to the challenge of extraordinary economic times. I hope that Congress can now act quickly.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL CALL TO SERVICE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, today the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) and I introduced a bill called the

National Call to Service Act. All of us are very aware of what happened on September 11; and as terrible as that day was and those events were, we have also seen some very positive things that have happened since.

We have seen the resurgence in patriotism. We have seen people who are more cordial and certainly have a greater desire to serve the country. In an attempt to harness this energy, the Call to Service Act would enlist 250,000 people, young people and old people alike, to serve our country. There are three aspects I would like to touch on very briefly here today.

First of all, rural and underserved areas often do not get much mention in a bill of this type. However, the National Call to Service Act does make sure that all areas of the country, particularly rural areas, are recognized. One example of this would be the teacher corps which would provide educational awards to attract and keep teachers in rural areas where it is very difficult to attract and keep teachers in such underserved areas. Another example would be public health programs where again rural areas are often neglected and underserved.

The second area of the National Call to Service Act I would like to call attention to is homeland defense. We have many young people who would like to serve the country, but yet do not want to go into full-time military service. This bill would provide young people with an opportunity to serve 18 months of active duty and then 18 months in a reserve status. In return, they get an educational award at the end of their service.

These young people would be used to guard vulnerable areas such as buildings, bridges, nuclear plants, airports and our borders. Also in the event of a national catastrophe involving bioterrorism, we need a great many people who could provide technical assistance in case of a health emergency.

Thirdly, one of our greatest resources in this country at the present time that I believe is greatly underutilized is our senior citizens. We currently have a great number of children who lack a caring adult in their life. They have no role model. We have 18 million fatherless children in the United States today. Roughly one-half of our young people growing up in this country are growing up without both biological parents. Seniors can certainly fill this gap. They can serve as tutors and mentors for these young people. It has been very well established that a good mentoring program can reduce absenteeism